

Catawba County Emergency Medical Services Standard Operating Guidelines

Medical Necessity

Determining the medical necessity of a transport is important in order to reduce non-payment by insurance companies. It is the responsibility of the Specialty Services Coordinator, a Shift Supervisor or designee to ascertain whether or not a call is medically necessary before accepting the call.

- Tact and professionalism must always be used when dealing with outside agencies.
- For out-of-county transfers, if by CMS rules, the trip is deemed not medically necessary or the patient has no insurance, the Shift Supervisor is to inform the transferring facility that the patient has to have half of the total cost of the trip paid prior to transport.
- After receiving 1/2 payment, the transporting crew will be responsible for issuing a receipt to the patient and/or family and delivering the monies to the Shift Supervisor, Specialty Services Coordinator or EMS Manager separate from normal paperwork delivery. This payment must be delivered to the Finance Department within 24 hours or the next business day.
- The receipt shall be filled out showing the estimated total amount for the transport, the amount paid up front and an estimated balance due.

4/7/06 – BDB